

Lawrence Stephen Helms

After battling lung disease for an extended period-of-time, Lawrence S. Helms died on September 24, 2018 from lung cancer at Hock Family Pavilion, a hospice in Durham, North Carolina. His wife, Nina, and son, Stephun, were with him. "Gary" was born in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 13, 1938 to Lawrence B. and Donnie Mae Helms and grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. After graduating from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute he entered the Naval Academy with the Class of 1960 where he was a member of the 20th Company and rowed lightweight crew and played soccer. Upon graduation he served in the destroyer BRINKLEY BASS (DD-887) out of Yokosuka, Japan. After Submarine School in New London, CT Gary completed four deterrent patrols in BARBERO (SSG-317), a Regulus guided missile submarine out of Pearl Harbor. He met his future wife, Nina, a Connecticut College graduate, during Submarine School. They married in 1963 and raised three sons, Stephun, Matthew and Robert. After Weapons School, Gary served as Weapons Officer aboard the ROBERT E. LEE (SSBN-610) out of Holy Loch, Scotland.

Gary left the Navy in 1967 and graduated from Columbia University with an MBA in Finance in 1968. His 25-year career in finance on Wall Street began with Irving Trust followed by Lehman Brothers and Fiduciary Trust where he was Senior Vice President and Head of Research before leaving in 1980 to form Randall-Helms International Inc., an investment management company focusing on economic and investment analysis. Gary's company pioneered in the use of personal computers to analyze quantitative information and to rank stocks by selected criteria, first in the U. S. and later worldwide. Randall-Helms became one of the top three software companies analyzing international stocks. Gary sold the company in 1995. Nina and he retired to their ski house in Vermont and in later years divided their time between Vermont and a beach house in Holden Beach, North Carolina finally settling in Holden Beach in 2008.

Gary is survived by his loving wife, Nina, their sons, Stephun, Matthew and Robert, their granddaughter, Amber Helms, his brother, Gus, and in-laws, nieces and nephews.

January-February 2019 Shipmate